Scans: amyused

Translation: fencer_x

Cleaning: paula

Typesetting: fencer_x

A sudden confession at the cultural festival?!
Kenta, meaning it seriously, left a terrible first impression...

センターカラー
フレッシュ
読みきり34P

Detour

本誌初登場

一樹らい

Kazuki Rai

PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!
1-5
IT'S LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!!
SOMETHING JUST GRABBED MY HEART THE MOMENT I LAID EYES ON YOU!
OH! I'M INUI KENTA, FROM CLASS 1-5!
IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND ALREADY--

STOP DICKING AROUND AND TAKE A GOOD LONG LOOK.
!?
THEN DATE-
GRAB
I'M...
WHIP
...A GUY!
Our first meeting was at the school cultural festival.
!?
...I STILL DON'T SEE IT

chatter
YOU HAVE MY MOST SINCERE APOLOGY!!!
1-1
A Panoply of Princesses! CROSSDRESSING CAFE
chatter
And it was a terrible first impression indeed.
Somehow I got this...
THIS JERK...!!
HEY HEY!!
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
RIGHT?? YOU LOOK LIKE A GIRL THROUGH AND THROUGH! YOU PROBABLY GET MISTAKEN FOR ONE ALL THE TIME HUH!
I TOLD YOU IT'S FINE...
I'VE JUST GOT A GIRLY FACE IS ALL.
MAKOTO!
GIMME YOUR PHONE NUMBER!
.....
SARUKAWA MAKOTO...

BINGO
Hahaha!
YOU'RE PRETTY FUNNY!
BUT YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF FRIENDS!
YIKES!
NO ONE'S EVER BLOWN ME OFF LIKE THAT BEFORE!
...AND WHY DO I HAVE TO GIVE MY PERSONAL INFORMATION TO A GUY I JUST MET?
...SO DITZY.
My dad's a cop and my mom's a teacher,
so our family motto is "Advance nobly, properly, and straight ahead."
.....
NO GOOD THEN?
I JUST WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU IS ALL...
I've always tried to take pride in how I lived my life...
...but those kinds of things left me with some complexes...
Yeah I get you. He's got such a nice looking face.
He's so creepy! Like a doll
My reticent nature certainly didn't help things, so I often found myself alone even in a group.
Apparently being raised in such an environment made me someone to be shunned.
Don't invite him! What if he blabs to his old man about us?!

This sociable guy piqued my interest a bit.
YOU'RE GIVING IT TO ME IN SPEECH?!
AND MY E-MAIL IS...
OH! YOUR PHONE NUMBER!
EH?!
...IT'S 090...
Inui Kenta is a curious lifeform.
JOLT
MAKOTO!!!
CHECK IT OUT!! LUCKY SEVENS!
WOW NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE
RIGHT???
SINGLE DIGITS
EH?!
and an idiot.
Aww, c'mon, It's fine! Let's gab, Makotooo!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL MY PHONE AFTER 10 AT NIGHT!
I'M TIRED!!
shame-less,
STOP YELLING! THIS IS MORTI-FYING!!
YOO HOO !!!
I'M IN GYM NOW!
WE'RE PLAYING SOCCER!
YEAH, AND??
stare
stare
Naive,

MAKOTO!
...IS BETTER AT NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF LIFE THAN ME...
jog
jog
AND IT'S RIDICULOUS
THAT SOMEONE LIKE THAT...
jog
jog
That's rare!!
WAIT, ARE YOU A BOOK WORM?!
NO, NOT PARTICULARLY...
IT'S PART OF BEING A STUDENT...
YOU'RE REALLY FAST!
IN A HURRY FOR SOMETHING?
SO YOU GO HOME THIS WAY?
YEAH...
Yikes, my ears are burning...
...OKAY, I KNOW THAT MAKES ME SOUND ARROGANT--
REALLY IT'S JUST THE INFLUENCE OF MY PARENTS. THEY'RE A FAR CRY FROM THE RANK AND FILE YOU SEE.
NOT REALLY... I WAS JUST GOING TO READ A MANUAL WHEN I GOT HOME.
MAYBE I'M JUST TRYING TO SHAKE THAT FEELING OF UNEASE THROUGH BURYING MYSELF IN MY STUDIES
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING I PARTICULARLY LIKE DOING OR WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE,

I SAW YOU AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL
HUH?!
!?
THE WAY YOU WERE GRINNING AT THE SIGHT OF YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR
BUT YOU LIKE DRESSING UP AS A GIRL, RIGHT?
THOUGH YOU WERE SO CUTE LIKE THAT IT'S WHY I CALLED OUT TO YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I WASN'T GRINNING BECAUSE I WAS DRESSED LIKE A GIRL!
I JUST REALLY LIKED THE EARRINGS AND NECKLACE, THAT'S ALL!
WHAT'S IT MATTER? IT LOOKED GOOD ON YOU!
GRAB
H-HE SAW ME?!
THAT'S NOT IT!
FORGET THAT, NOW! WIPE IT FROM YOUR MEMORY!!

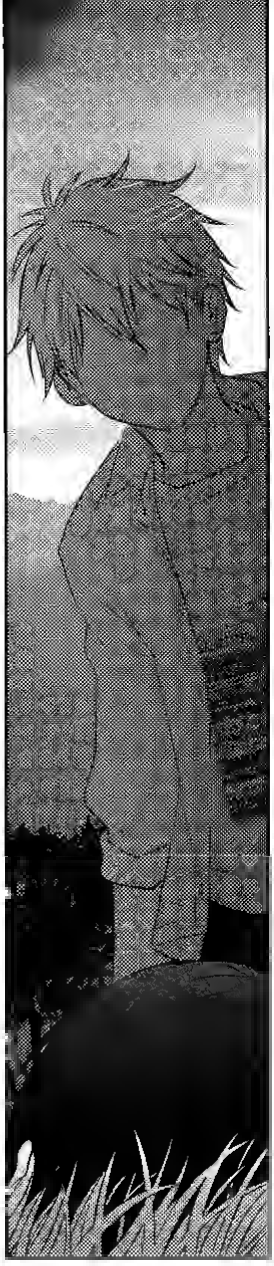
UMM...
I DIDN'T LIKE PUTTING THEM ON YOU SEE. JUST...
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED SPARKLY SHINY THINGS
WOW...
IT'S GROSS, RIGHT?! LAUGH IF YOU LIKE!
NO, IT'S JUST YOU DO HAVE SOMETHING!
HUH?
B-BUT,
IT'S WEIRD FOR A GUY TO LIKE THAT KIND OF THING, RIGHT...?
MY DAD EVEN GOT MAD AT ME, TELLING ME TO FIND A MANLIER INTEREST...
SOMETHING YOU LIKE!

AH-
HMM...
WELL I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY-THING WRONG WITH IT!
WHOA!!
OPEN!!
THERE'S A NEW CREPE STAND!
YOU LIKE CREPES?
I'M GONNA GO BUY ONE!!
HOLD THIS!!
LOVE 'EM!!
.....
GRAH!
SAYS WHO?!
I'M GONNA EAT ONE!!
WHY WOULD I BE?
AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED FOR THAT...?
THAT'S SOMETHING GIRLS EAT, RIGHT?

I SEE...
...I'd be made fun of for it...
In that moment,
IT'S FINE
I always thought...
"WELL I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT"
[THEME]
My Dream
I somehow recalled...
I want to become a jewelry designer.
Class 2-2
...the half-forgotten dream I had about my future career...
And lots of whipped cream, too!

After that,
Inui and I went home together every day.
HAHAHA, CHECK IT OUT, LOOK!
THERE'S A BUTT-LOAD OF KOI HERE!
.....
Inui likes to take detours.
And when I'm with him, my legs seem to stop of their own volition.
OOH A DRAGON-FLY!!
MAKOTO! DRAGON-FLIES!
SO WHAT?
LET'S CHASE THEM!
WHY?!
dash
JUST 'CAUSE!
DAMMIT, I DON'T UNDER-STAND HIM...

But...
AH
Just stretching out my legs...
...look how wide the world stretches...
IT'S SO PRETTY



Being with Inui is so much fun...

WE WERE COMPETING?

What kind of high-schooler chases dragon-flies...?
No way!
Hahaha!
And yet...
YOOHOO! Makoto!!
nod
I WONDER WHY HE HANGS OUT WITH ME
HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE LACKS FOR FRIENDSHIP
I MEAN, TO HIM
I'M JUST ONE OF HIS MANY, MANY FRIENDS...
BUT HE...
...IS MY ONLY ONE
HE'S SPECIAL TO ME
.....
.....
SO WHAT?

It's not like there is anything I can do about that.
And yet...when winter rolled around...
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.
WHAT?
I JUST CAN'T GIVE UP ON WHAT I ASKED YOU TO DO BACK AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL!
THE MORE I HANG OUT WITH YOU, THE MORE I LIKE YOU!

I'M BEGGIN' YOU, MAKOTO!
BOW
PLEASE DATE ME!!
...WAIT,
HAVEN'T WE ...ALREADY HAD THIS DISCUSSION?
YOU ASKED ME THAT BE-CAUSE YOU THOUGHT I WAS A GIRL!
ARE YOU DICKING AROUND NOW?!
NO, I'M SERIOUS.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M A GUY!
OH YEAH, I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT KINDA THING.
YOU SHOULD!
I NEVER THOUGHT I SHOULD GIVE UP ON YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A GUY.
YOU SHOULD!
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW STUPID YOU CAN BE! LOVE IS A THING THAT GUYS AND GIRLS DO!
TWO MEN HAVE ZERO PROCREATIVE ABILITY SO IT'S POINTLESS, AND THEN THERE'S THE VIEW OF SOCIETY--
HEY! LISTEN TO ME!
BUT I CAN'T HELP THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU!
TRY THINKING ABOUT THINGS ON A DEEPER LEVEL FOR A CHANGE, GEEZ!
EVEN IF I GAVE IT THOUGHT,
MY FEELINGS WOULDN'T CHANGE.
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT ALL THIS TIME, YOU...
...NEVER THOUGHT OF ME AS YOUR FRIEND...?

...
SORRY.
YUP. I HAD ULTERIOR MOTIVES THE WHOLE TIME.
LEAP
I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT YOU'D PROBABLY COME TO LIKE ME IF I WAS YOUR FRIEND FIRST.
BUT I'M NOT EXPECTING YOU TO ACCEPT ME RIGHT AWAY.
I'M...
FULLY PREPARED TO WAIT FOR YOU.

But...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
Strangely, I wasn't angry that I'd been deceived.
I was actually... happy to learn that I'd been a special existence to Inai.
.....
He had no problem reaching out to grab hold...
...of something I would have given up on long ago.
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
HOW IS IT YOU NEVER SEEM TO DOUBT YOUR FEELINGS?!
HOW CAN YOU DO THINGS THAT AREN'T NORMAL SO EASILY?!
IT'S WEIRD! AND IMPOSSIBLE!
AS IF I COULD EVER ACCEPT YOU!
WE'RE BOTH GUYS!!

And that pissed me off.
...MAY BE STUPID,
BUT AT LEAST I UNDERSTAND MY OWN FEELINGS.
stand
YOU KNOW, I...

.....
dash
.....
MAKOTO?!
I was so ashamed.

I felt so flimsy, having been imprisoned by logic and reason all my life.
"WE'RE BOTH GUYS! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!"
Faced with Inui's steadfast, piercing gaze,
huff
huff
It was like Inui, despite all of his detours...
...approached his life in a far more straightforward manner than me.
<ADVANCE NOBLY, PROPERLY, AND STRAIGHT AHEAD.>
Yeah...
That's right...
huff

sssshhh...
...is running away from everything at top speed...
Maybe all I've been doing...
DING DONG
chatter
chatter

WE'RE GOING HOME
EH?
OH, OKAY!
SCURRY
Shhh
I'LL SPEAK FRANKLY.
.....
RIGHT NOW,
I'D LIKE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO YOUR FEELINGS

...I'M SCARED.
HOW-EVER,
LEAP
MAKO-TOOO!
WOOHOO!!
SCARED OF HOW MY PARENTS AND THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL LOOK AT ME...
STRAYING FROM THE PATH MOST EVERYONE ELSE FOLLOWS...
...IT JUST TERRIFIES ME.
...WHEN THEY LEARN I'M IN LOVE WITH A GUY.

I WANT TO LIVE BEING ABLE TO SAY THAT I LOVE THE THINGS I LOVE!
I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU AND NOT CARE WHAT THE REST OF THE WORLD THINKS.
BUT...I DO *WANT* TO CHANGE.
THIS WAY OF THINKING HAS JUST SEEPED INTO ME OVER THE YEARS, AND I PROBABLY CAN'T CHANGE IT EASILY
I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE TRUE TO MY FEELINGS!
UNTIL NOW, I'VE NEVER STRAYED FROM THE PATH, JUST KEPT MY FOCUS ON MOVING AHEAD!
I'VE NEVER ONCE STOPPED AND CONSIDERED MY FEELINGS!
.....

brush
!?
WHEN I'M WITH YOU, I WANT TO TOUCH YOU LIKE THIS...
Squeeze
I...
IT'S NOT THAT I... DISLIKE...
IT'S NOT?
NO, I...
THEN WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU...
...NOT LIKE DOING THIS KIND OF THING WITH ME...?
What is is...?
MY...

MY HEART...
...FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE...!

WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
KISS-
COVER
YOU CAN'T!!
WHY NOT?
?
WHAT IS WITH YOU?! WE'RE BOTH GUYS!!
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THIS IS THE KIND OF THING YOU NEED CONSENT FROM BOTH PARTIES FOR!
I WON'T DO IT IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO.
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO, GOT IT?
DON'T PUSH ME AWAY JUST BECAUSE WE'RE BOTH GUYS, OR BECAUSE IT'S NOT NORMAL.
ONLY PUSH ME AWAY BECAUSE DEEP DOWN YOU REALLY DON'T WANT ME TO KISS YOU.

……
……
……

I understood.
rustle
Ah...
In that instant,

From the moment we met,
Or maybe I'd always known.
...had always been bright and sparkling...
That straightforward gaze of Inui's as he beheld something he loved...
INUI, I...
INUI.
And when I opened my eyes again...

I saw a sight I'd never seen before spreading out wide before me.
END